

Appl. S.N.: 10/671,147

132071-1

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OCT 30 2007

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A fluid-dispenser device for a washing machine having a wash basket rotatable about a vertical axis and defining radii extending in a horizontal plane relative to a circumference in correspondence with respect to said wash basket, the device comprising:

at least two ports positioned along a common radius and on a common horizontal plane to direct respective jets of fluid into a wash basket, each of the jets having a generally parallel relationship with respect to one another.

21. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein each of the outlet ports is configured to provide a distinctive exit velocity to the respective jets of fluid.

22. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein each of the outlet ports is configured to have a distinctive inclination angle relative to said horizontal plane.

23. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein each of the outlet ports is configured to provide a distinctive exit angle to the respective jets of fluid relative to a respective radius in said horizontal plane passing through said ports.

24. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 the at least two outlet ports are adjacent to one another.

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25. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 24 comprising multiple sets of adjacent ports distributed along the along the circumference in correspondence with the wash basket.

26. (Original) The fluid-dispenser of claim 25 wherein each of the multiple sets of adjacent ports is equidistantly distributed along the circumference in correspondence with the wash basket.

27. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 comprising a pressurized annular ring.

28. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein said pressurized annular ring comprises a segmented annular ring.

29. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein the at least two ports are situated at different points along the circumference in correspondence with the wash basket.

30. (Original) The fluid dispenser device of claim 27 wherein said pressurized annular ring comprises a single-piece ring.

31. (Original) The fluid dispenser device of claim 20 comprising a multi-branched network.

32. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 wherein the at least two ports are situated along a common radius.

33. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 20 coupled to a controller configured to impart relative rotation between the outlet ports and the wash basket as the jets of fluid are directed into the wash basket.

34. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 33 wherein said controller is further configured to command a spin cycle for extracting rinse-cycle fluid from the wash basket, said rinse-cycle fluid used during a rinse cycle.

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35. (Original) The fluid-dispenser device of claim 34 wherein said controller is further configured to command a sequence of said rinse and spin cycles, and, during each of said rinse cycles, is configured to command delivery of a sufficiently lesser amount of fluid that would otherwise be required to fill said wash basket to appropriately wet articles positioned along a side wall of the basket.

36. (Currently Amended) A method for delivering rinsing fluid to articles in a washing machine having a wash basket rotatable about a vertical axis, the wash basket defining radii extending in a horizontal plane relative to a circumference in correspondence with respect to said wash basket, the method comprising:

directing respective jets of fluid into the wash basket from at least two outlet ports located along a common radius and on a common horizontal plane; and

configuring each of the jets to have a generally parallel relationship with respect to one another.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising providing a distinctive exit velocity to the respective jets of fluid.

38. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising configuring each of the outlet ports to have a distinctive inclination angle relative to said horizontal plane.

39. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising configuring each of the outlet ports to provide a distinctive exit angle to the respective jets of fluid relative to a respective radius in said horizontal plane passing through said ports.

40. (Original) The method of claim 36 further comprising imparting relative motion between the outlet ports and the wash basket as the jets of fluid are directed into the wash basket.

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41. (Original) The method of claim 36 wherein each jet of fluid is configured to directly impinge on articles that may be positioned along a sidewall of the wash basket.

42. (Original) The method of claim 41 further comprising a spin cycle for extracting rinse-cycle fluid from the wash basket, said rinse-cycle fluid used during a rinse cycle.

43. (Original) The method of claim 42 further comprising a sequence of said rinse and spin cycles, and, during each of said rinse cycles, delivering a lesser amount of fluid that would otherwise be required to fill said wash basket to sufficiently wet the articles positioned along the side wall of the basket.